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Bi-153

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

HINTS ON THE CARE OF BEAVERS.

Traits. Beavers tame easily. They are naturally gentle and will submit to being handled in a surprisingly short time after being captured.

Food. In the wild state, they eat roots and the twigs and bark of trees. In confinement, they do well when fed on bread, turnips, carrots, and potatoes, varied with twigs or bark from such trees as aspen, cottonwood, willow, maple, or birch.

Breeding. Beavers begin to breed when two years old. The young are born in May. Each breeding female should be given a pen and a warm nest not later than the middle of April. Litters vary in number from one to eight, averaging about four.

Enclosures. Yard fences may be made of heavy wire netting or of corrugated galvanized sheet iron set endwise in the ground. If the iron is used posts will not be necessary. Fences should extend into the earth about 3 feet and be turned inward at the bottom 2 feet. Above ground, they should extend 3 feet higher than the maximum snowfall and have an inward overhang of 15 inches. All yards should contain water, either flowing or in pools deep enough to cover beavers. Houses or dens should have two compartments, the inner one being designed for the nest. They must be well shaded in summer.

Bi-153
Sept. 20

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MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. [Name]

FROM : Mr. [Name]

SUBJECT : [Subject]

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